

CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) An animal treat ball apparatus comprising:

an outside surface in which a first opening is formed, said first opening providing access to a first space;

a) a ball, with an outside and an inside, the inside including an interior compartment defining a second space for containing animal treats, ; and a separate compartment wherein the separate compartment also includes at least one space for containing animal treats; and the interior compartment including a wall separating the first space and the second space, the wall having a second b) two opening[[s]] formed therein that allows animal treats to move between the first space and the second space, the interior compartment having a third opening that allows animal treats to move between the second space and an exterior of the animal treat ball apparatus in the separate compartment and at least one opening from the outside to the inside of the ball;

wherein the at least one opening includes a removable cap removably retained within the first space and at least partially blocking and wherein the two openings in the separate compartment include more than one flap limiting the size of the second opening.

14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 13, further including a sinuous raised feature edge on the outside surface exterior of the ball.

16. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the ~~separate~~ first space ~~compartment~~ is offset from a center location of the animal treat ball apparatus.

17. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein ~~the two openings in the separate wall of the interior~~ compartment includes a funnel section for funneling items to the ~~at least one second opening in the ball~~.

18. (canceled)

19. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the removable cap is an edible animal treat.

20. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~[[24]]~~13, wherein ~~the two openings in the separate compartment~~ the wall includes more than one flap limiting ~~the~~ a size of the second opening.

21. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the removable cap is generally domed shaped.

22. (withdrawn from consideration) An animal treat ball method comprising the steps of:

a) providing a ball with an exterior form, with an outside and an inside, surrounding an interior form with a compartment wherein the inside of the ball includes at least one space for containing animal treats and wherein the compartment includes at least one space for containing animal treats;

b) providing at least one opening in the interior form and at least one opening in the exterior form; and

c) inserting animal treats in the ball.

23. (withdrawn from consideration) The method of claim 22 further comprising the step of installing a removable cap over the opening in the exterior form after inserting the animal treats.

24. (currently amended) An animal treat ball, comprising:

a) ~~— a ball, with an outside and an inside, the inside including~~ surface in which a first opening is formed, said first opening providing access to a first space for ~~containing~~ animal treats, wherein the animal treat ball apparatus has a perimeter lip for retaining a removable cap within the first space that extends into the first opening;

~~and an interior separate compartment wherein the separate compartment also includes at least one defining a second space for containing animal treats, ; and b) the interior compartment including a wall separating the first space and the second space, the wall having a second two opening[[s]] formed therein that allows animal treats to move between the first space and the second space the separate compartment and at least one opening from the outside to the inside of the ball wherein the at least one opening includes a removable cap and wherein the removable cap is an edible animal treat.~~

25. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 24, further including a sinuous raised feature edge on the outside surface exterior of the animal treat ball.

26. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the first space separate compartment is offset from a center location of the animal treat ball.

27. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the ~~two openings in the separate interior compartment includes~~ a third opening that allows animal treats to move between the second space and an exterior of the animal treat ~~a funnel section for funneling items to the at least one opening in the ball.~~

28. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the removable cap is generally domed shaped.

29. (new) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the wall includes more than one flap limiting a size of the second opening.

30. (new) The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein:

the animal treat ball apparatus has a lip at a perimeter of the first opening; and
when the removable cap is retained within the first space, the lip overlays some but less than all of an outermost surface of the removable cap.

31. (new) An animal treat ball, comprising:

an outside surface in which a first opening is formed, said first opening providing access to a first space for animal treats; and

an interior compartment defining a second space for animal treats, the interior compartment including a wall separating the first space and the second space, the wall having a second opening formed therein that allows animal treats to move between the first space and the second space, wherein a dimension of the first space along a plane containing the second opening is greater than a maximum dimension of the second opening.

32. (new) The apparatus of claim 31, and further comprising a removable cap retained within the first space.

33. (new) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the removable cap comprises an edible animal treat.

34. (new) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein:

the animal treat ball apparatus has a lip at a perimeter of the first opening; and
when the removable cap is retained within the first space, the lip overlays some but less than all of an outermost surface of the removable cap.

35. (new) The apparatus of claim 31, further including a sinuous raised feature on the outside surface of the animal treat ball.

36. (new) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the first space is offset from a center location of the animal treat ball.

37. (new) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the wall of the interior compartment includes a funnel section for funneling items to the second opening.

38. (new) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the wall includes more than one flap limiting a size of the second opening.

39. (new) The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the removable cap is generally domed shaped.